(b) The cause of the explosion and other details would be known after receipt of the report of the Board of Inquiry.

(c) No person was killed. However one person sustained injury.

(d) The Board of Inquiry has been asked to suggest remedial measures to be taken to avoid recurrence of such incidents. Appropriate action would be taken on the basis of the Board of Inquiry report.

Steps to prevent air crashes

†191. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that every month one plane of Indian Air Force crashed during last four years;

(b) if so, the amount lost and the number of pilots killed in these plane crashes;

(c) whether these plane crashes occurred due to technical failure or due to human errors; and

(d) the details of steps taken by Government to prevent the air crashes?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (c) The details of the aircraft accidents, along with their cause, which took place during the last four years in the Indian Air Force (IAF) is given in the Statement (*See* below).

In these accidents, the IAF has lost 31 pilots and suffered a loss of Rs. 634.74 crores. In a few cases, the cost is yet to be finalised.

(d) The Indian Air Force continuously undertakes measures to enhance and upgrade flight safety. Steps to enhance the quality of training to improve the skill levels, ability to exercise sound judgement and situational awareness of pilots are being pursued. Constant interaction with Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) and Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEMs) of concerned countries are also maintained to overcome

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

the technical defects of aircraft.

Considering the spate of aircraft accidents that have taken place in the recent past, the Government of India have also constituted an Expert Committee on 30.12.2004 under the Chairmanship of Director General (Inspection & Safety) to identify the main causes of the these accidents and to formulate a comprehensive Action Plan to minimise the losses.

Statement

Details of Aircraft Accidents

Financial year	No. of Accidents	No. of aircraft lost	Cause of accidents					
			Human Error (Aircrew)	Human Error (Servicing)	Technical Defect	Bird Hit	Unresolved	Under Investigation
2001-2002	22	22	13	0	6	1	2	0
2002-2003	23	23	8	2	12	0	1	0
2003-2004	15	15	6	0	8	0	1	0
2004-2005 upto 24.2.2005	14	15	3	2	2	0	0	7
Total	74	75	30	4	28	1	4	7

Commissioning of Admiral Gorshkov

192. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is certain now that the Russian built 45,000 tonne aircraft carrier 'Admiral Gorshkov' will be commissioned into the Indian Navy by end of 2007 and arrive in Mumbai in early 2008; and

(b) if so, the other details of the launch?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) The repair and re-equipping of aircraft carrier 'Admiral Gorshkov' at Russia is